

Winter, 1978

Quick Strokes

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Watch for announcement!
Contest! September! Sydney!

Speedmongers alert! World championship keytapping contest coming up!

The titans may meet -- Howard Hudson and Barbara Blackburn -- Hudson far and away the fastest transcriber who ever took the National Shorthand Reporters' Association proficiency test, and Blackburn, three times credited in the Guinness Book of World Records with the fastest sustained keyboard output.

Blackburn expects to be in New South Wales well in advance of the September, 1978, date of the competition. Hudson has indicated to Quick Strokes that he, too, is considering the trip to Australia.

The sponsor is Randayn Agencies, attention Ronald Watson, Box 34, Newport Beach, NSW 2106, Australia.

Hudson and Blackburn both use a Dvorak arrangement of characters on their keyboards, and the same variant, namely, ASK. Any arrangement of characters is permissible, however.

Merchants, manufacturers, or others who wish to donate a prize to be awarded in their name are invited to write to Mr. Watson.

Quick Strokes is published by Philip Davis at Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691, quarterly. We want accounts of your experience with the Dvorak-Dealey keyboard arrangement or with variants of it. Give us, please, the dates and places of your speaking engagements, beforehand, if you intend to discuss the new keyboard. We are grateful for press clippings on the subject, even when we do not mention the sender in Quick Strokes. If you want your letter kept in confidence, please say so, or address it to Speedy Keyboard, same box number.

Evaluation and demonstration
in Oregon - report nearly ready

A so-far untitled report by Bradley J. Lessley will summarize the procedure and outcome in practical applications of the new keyboard at offices of

Employee Benefits Insurance Co.,
Oregon Public Employees Retirement
System,

City of Eugene,
Data Systems Division of the State
of Oregon Executive Department,
First National Bank of Oregon,
Oregon State University, and
Hewlett-Packard Corp.

The new keyboard is the ASK variant of the Dvorak-Dealey Simplified arrangement of characters.

The Lessley report will become available to the educational profession and to the press and public, in some form, by June, 1978. Watch for the publisher's address in the Spring, 1978, issue of Quick Strokes, scheduled for mailing in June.

Viola Fisher, instructor,
is ready, willing, and able

In January, 1978, Viola Fisher, P. O. Box 2133, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230, was at liberty to consider positions calling for teaching Dvorak or variant typing.

She has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an M. A. in Economics and has had teaching experience in high school, vocational school, and business college. She is a self-retrained Dvorak keyboard operator. We presume, because she wrote to Quick Strokes, that she is willing to relocate.

ASK portables for immediate shipment.
B. W. Adams, 4 Park Ave., RD 1,
Scarborough, ME 04074

Australian association circulates two drafts for proposed national standard arrangements for characters on keyboards

Tradition and innovation are neatly contrasted in Australia, where diagrams of metric modifications of two quite different arrangements for keyboards are circulating for comment by the public. One of these two drafts for proposed standards represents the Rosenblum variant of the Dvorak arrangement, called there, as in the United States, ASK. It is Draft Review Number 78040.

The metric symbols are powers, a 2 and a 3, both small and both aligned high.

The alternative draft proposal is a metric "qwerty".

The author of both drafts is a committee of experts working with the Standards Association of Australia. According to the Quick Strokes correspondent, the Dvorak variant is presented now because "this latest keyboard is increasing its market penetration in English-speaking countries; and it is more practical to arrange with typewriter manufacturers to build one standard type of simplified keyboard before so many have been sold that standardizing becomes more difficult."

Chart for rearranging interposers in nonExecutive IBM Selectrics for Dvorak variants is in stock at Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc.

No typewriter is any better than the arrangement of characters on the keyboard. You can add hundreds of dollars in value to your present Selectric -- not of the Executive model -- by rearranging its interposers.

A chart which can be ordered from Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc., Box 643, West Sacramento, California 95691, shows you or your service worker how to do it. The combinations and punched numbers on all 44 interposers are shown, together with the pairs of characters they produce and the slot numbers for a rearrangement for ASK or MDSK Dvorak variants. Mail \$3. Six sheets in photocopy.

Bibliographic notes

"WP's Scientific Attitude Should Include the Keyboard", Word Processing World, November-December, 1977, page 73, by Guest Columnist Philip Davis. Work done rhythmically is done rapidly, easily, and well. The Dvorak arrangement of characters on keyboards permits rhythmic stroking.

"Debunking the Keyboard Change Argument", Georgia E. Wenkman in Word Processing World, Jan.-Feb., 1978, page 68.

Four-phase Systems, Inc.,
smells the coffee

Editor, Quick Strokes,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding support of the Dvorak keyboard. I checked with our manufacturing facility in Cupertino, California, and found that we do indeed support that style of keyboard.

Gerald R. Beeks,
marketing representative,
Sacramento, California

ANS working group moseys along;
consensus on draft proposal
will be sought again

Returns on the first letter ballot on a draft proposed Dvorak variant keyboard arrangement standard submitted by American National Standards Working Group X4DSK to its membership were 12 yes, five no, one abstaining, and nine not voting.

The negative ballots, from members in Minnesota, Michigan, Maine, New York, and the District of Columbia, were considered at a meeting on Feb. 18, 1978, in Berkeley, California.

It was agreed that the ballot draft had been too loose, leaving, as it did, optional locations for 22 characters. It was also agreed that the appendix to the proposed standard should present more material on productivity, training time, and error rates.

New and reliable data on these points are expected by midApril, 1978, when X4DSK will meet again in Berkeley.

The mail address for the X4DSK group is "In care of CBEMA Standards, 1828 L St., N.W., Room 1200, Washington, DC 20036."



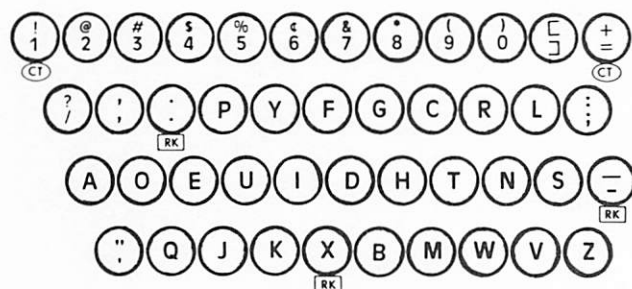
Now stocked for quick delivery --

the SCM office model Coronamatic 8000,

with the American Simplified
arrangement of characters

For beginners, quick competence!

For the competent, quick excellence!



Smith-Corona's Short Course for the ASK (American Simplified Keyboard) Type-writer, a starting learner's manual, is included with your purchase. For other models or for more details on these, call or write

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Delivery usually in about two weeks
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Coronamatic 8000

with 16-inch carriage		\$500.00
with 13-inch carriage		472.50

Portables on a delivery schedule of
about 14 weeks after receipt of order:

Coronamatic 2200, with 13-inch carriage and keybutton return		\$345.00
Coronamatic 1200, with long platen and lever carriage return	..	\$284.00

Speedy Keyboard Enterprises, Inc.
Box 643
West Sacramento, California 95691
Telephone 916-446-3377

Secretarial school without shorthand planned at Sydney

A hundred-word-a-minute racing pace is a requisite for graduation under the planned program of a secretarial school which, according to Randayn Agencies, is to be established in Sydney, Australia. This pace, they argue, will permit a secretary to take dictation directly on the typewriter.

Most originators formulate at about 80 wpm.

Plans to equip classrooms entirely with Dvorak variant keyboards and to secure discounts for students on machines that they buy are already laid.

Circulation this issue

Quick Strokes is a paid-subscription periodical, at \$5 per year. Subs expire with the Winter issue. We also accept advertising, at \$3 per square inch, or \$210 per full page. This issue goes to subscribers, including those in arrears, to exchanges and some other media, and to a selected promotional list.

Blackburn in Guinness again

Barbara Blackburn's record on a Dvorak variant keyboard arrangement appears on page 487 of the New! Colossal 1978 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records.

J. Hilbert Anderson firm likes its Dvorak variant console Editor, Quick Strokes,

Since we received our Wang System 2200 with the Dvorak keyboard, we really like it.

We have found that even for nontypists it is much faster to input data than is a QWERTY keyboard. Incidentally, since our special order, Wang is now offering the Dvorak or "ASK" arrangement as a regular option on the System 2200. This is quite a step. I suggest you contact Wang and they will give you more information.

James H. Anderson, Jr.,
vice-president, J. Hilbert Anderson,
Consulting Engineer, York, PA

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